

September 2013

Features

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Coordinator's Comments



Well as usual I am down to the wire to come up with comments for the newsletter. I am leaving for Portland tomorrow and want LuRue to have this for the newsletter before I go.

First let me thank you for all the well wishes on my retirement. I am enjoying only working part time, but it can get tense when I am against the clock trying to resolve an issue or get a report out on

time. I will continue to send you emails with the days and hours that I will be working so as not to frustrate you if you call and I'm not there. Please do communicate with me so I know that you are alive and well and not having any issues with your case. Of course you new volunteers also have a mentor who can also help you with any questions.

I have sent out the first of the on-going certifications today and will continue the process when I return from the Oregon coast. Most of you have gone thru the process before, but when those of you who have not, receive your letter, please call if you have any questions. The assessments are to follow. As part of the re-cert you will need fingerprints submitted again. The more recent volunteers already have fingerprint cards that can be used for this process. However there are a few (ok, it could be more than a few) who have cards that have been used the maximum number of times and will need to get fingerprinted again. You will know if you need to be fingerprinted, because in the cover letter with the form it will be in **bold**.

Another requirement is to have a current auto proof of insurance. Remember when I talked about this in a newsletter a few months ago... asking for them to be sent to the office. Well, we received 4. If you haven't sent in a current proof of insurance you will be required to submit it with your re-cert form. Those of you who are not due for a re-cert will be getting a personal email (lucky you).



We have also sent out emails on training requirements letting you know where you stand with completing the 12 hours for this calendar year. If you are new to the program (became an active volunteer this year) you will not have received an email because you already met your annual requirement with the pre-training you received. I encourage you now to start getting those hours.

I leave you with these thoughts:

If you haven't already

- **SEND IN YOUR CURRENT AUTO PROOF OF INSURANCE FOR CY 2013**
- **GET THOSE 12 HOURS OF TRAINING FOR CY 2013!**
- **SUBMIT CONTACT LOGS ON A MONTHLY BASIS (that's for you, Lissete)**

Joan Hansen
Cochise County CASA Program Coordinator

September 2013						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Labor Day Observed	3 <u>Julia</u> : Court Report due for AM	4	5 	6 Penny D.  	7 Deborah W. 
8 Grandparent's Day	9	10	11	12 Chocolate Milk Shake Day	13 Positive Thinking Day	14
15	16 Independence Day (Mexico) 	17 Adrienne J. 	18 National Cheeseburger Day	19	20 <u>Jessica</u> : Court Report due for R case	21
22 Business Women's Day	23 Maggie M. 	24	25	26	27	28 Ask a Stupid Question Day
29	30					
 9/04/13 <u>Huddleston's</u> : Court Report due for G case <u>Patti S</u> : Court Report due for J case				 9/6/13 <u>Tracey</u> : Court Report due for A/R Read a Book Day		

Created by Lissete Olivares, CASA Support

Joan's Retirement Luncheon

by **Mary Blanchard, Cochise Co. CASA Volunteer**

We all hoped this day would never come, but we do have Joan part time, and she sent us all her schedule so we would know her hours.

Judge Beumler, Delcy Scull, Joseph Conrad, Juvenile Probation & Detention Staff, County Attorney Staff, and CASA volunteers were in attendance. There were several moving speeches, but Delcy's speech was the highlight of the day. She told us that Joan is invited to stay on part time as long as she wants to (forever seems about right to me). She also said that in all Joan's years as CASA coordinator, there has never been a single complaint filed against her. No wonder she is so good at keeping us out of trouble -----most of the time.

Joan made it clear that working full time was getting to be too much for her. She did stay on an extra year +, and now she needs some free time. Remember, as volunteers, we always can take a break every now and then. I spend a LOT of time playing bridge, and I'm sure every CASA volunteer has "outside" activities, but Joan rarely got a break, and now she, too, will have free time.

If the quantity of food that was brought is any indication of how much love and admiration everyone felt for Joan, than she is well loved

indeed. The conference room was packed and we didn't even make a dent in the food. I never, ever cook and I brought brownies and guacamole. The theme for the food was Mexican, and everything was delicious; my vote for best dish was our own Lissete's refried beans. If I had thought about it, I would have taken a poll of favorites. Sorry, but the only other favorite I recorded was Bud Dragoo's. He loved the pistachio dessert.

Lissete presented Joan with a platter that we all signed. It was lovely and will be permanent once it's baked. Joan said she will bake goodies and bring them to the office, a great way to show off the platter!

Check Joan's new schedule and keep her in the loop.



Tracy Diaz

FCRB Meeting 7/10/13

The Board thanks the Court Appointed Special Advocate for her time invested and acknowledges her reported concerns, which if unresolved, pose a barrier to reunification.

Jennifer Rein

FCRB Meeting 7/10/13

The Board appreciates the Court Appointed Special Advocate for her time and effort invested in ensuring J's best interest and concurs with her concern about the best permanency goal for J, given the unknowns regarding the events surrounding J's injuries.

Ned Letto

FCRB Meeting 7/16/13

The Board is pleased a Guardian ad Litem has been appointed to advocate for R's best interest.

The Pants

by **Mary Blanchard, Cochise Co. CASA Volunteer**

Shortly after school began, I was visiting one of my CASA kids. We were chatting away; and in the course of our conversation, I asked her how school was going. Her face fell and she replied, "Not very well."

Naturally I was quite concerned, so I asked her, "What's wrong?"

She told me she had just found out she was going to have to wear uniform pants. She also added that some of the boys didn't wear uniform pants. I told her that we couldn't control other people, but what could she do to make this work.

She replied, "Skinny pants."

Visions of CASA Council and their support of our kids flashed through my mind. I put on my best smile and asked her if getting skinny pants would solve the problem. Would school then be okay again? She said it would. I asked if the uniform pants were the Dickie brand. She said, "Yes." I told her we would get the pants. I asked her if she knew any store that sold beige skinny pants. She said Rue 21 and Sears both sold skinny pants.

I planned on taking the young lady to get the pants, so I didn't ask her what size she wore. But it turned out that I wasn't going to visit

her for a week, so I decided to see what was available. Rue 21 did not carry Dickies, but Sears did. I guessed at her size and bought 2 pairs of size 13's. I also checked on line and located other sizes.

Somehow I managed to make arrangements to deliver the pants to my girl. They were way too big. We then had a lengthy discussion as to size. She decided to try a size 9 and a size 11. I went back to Sears' and returned the pants. I checked for size 11 and 9. There none, but the absolutely most helpful and nicest young man volunteered to look in the back, and he came out with the correct sizes. Wow!!!!!! Success!!!!!! The school year was saved!

I happened to have my cell phone with me (another story), and I called and got permission to deliver the pants. My girl decided on both sizes. She is now happily wearing her uniform pants. So skinny saved the day. I sent in my request and the receipt to the CASA council.



Parking Lot Questions

These are questions which were asked at the CASA Advocacy Academy, but were not answered by the presenter at the time. A training specialist has answered them.

Will CASAs testify in court? What is the protocol?

Very rarely are CASAs called to testify in court; CASAs would usually be called to testify in a contested matter – i.e., termination of parental rights. To testify, a CASA would need to be subpoenaed, which would usually come to the CASA office. If a CASA receives a subpoena directly, she/he would need to contact their coordinator.

No More Therapeutic Foster Care in Sierra Vista

by **Mary Blanchard**, assisted by **Bud Dragoo**, Cochise County CASA Volunteers

As of September 30, 2013, there will be no more therapeutic foster care in Sierra Vista. Devereux made a corporate decision that it can't afford to continue to lose money on therapeutic care in our area and announced it will be closing down our existing therapeutic services.

Therapeutic foster care is authorized when the child has been clinically evaluated to need more intensive supervision and care, such as for behavior issues, medical problems, or educational needs.

It costs more to train therapeutic foster parents, a referral is required to authorize this care, more support is provided for therapeutic foster parents, and ***it definitely costs more to pay a therapeutic foster parent than to pay a regular foster parent.***

Referrals for therapeutic foster care have been way down. Only three therapeutic foster parents in Cochise County had placements at the time Devereux pulled out. I find it hard to believe that only three children in our area qualify for therapeutic placement. Cenpatico must approve referrals, and only this small number was approved.

Cenpatico is Arizona's behavioral health provider, and they are the "umbrella" central

agency which contracts out behavioral health services to other agencies. Cenpatico is allowed to make a profit. It is good business to make a profit, and businesses provide a service and/or fill a need with the expectation that they will make a profit. There is nothing wrong with this. The customer will continue to purchase the product if he/she is satisfied, or the customer will switch to a competitor if he/she is not satisfied. Cenpatico has no competitors. They must approve a behavioral health service, or it will not be provided.

In my opinion, Cenpatico needs to ensure that needed behavioral health services are available. It concerns me that they do not feel a need to provide therapeutic foster care in Sierra Vista. Is this all about cost? And what about the children who need therapeutic foster care?



Immigration Reform and the Implications for Children

An Analysis of the Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act of 2013
April 2013

On April 17, 2013 the bipartisan Senate “Gang of 8” introduced the Border Security, Economic Opportunity and Immigration Modernization Act of 2013 (S.744). Children of immigrants, who now comprise 25 percent of the U.S. child population, have a lot at stake in the overhaul of the U.S. immigration system. Thus, it is critical that immigration reform addresses the specific needs and interests of children. This fact sheet provides a summary and analysis of key provisions of the Senate immigration reform proposal that impact kids and families.

THE DREAM ACT

S.744 provides DREAMers with an expedited five year path to citizenship. In order to qualify for the DREAM Act, individuals must have been in registered provisional immigration (RPI) status for at least 5 years; entered the U.S. before age 16; graduated from high school or earned a GED; and acquired a higher education degree, completed two years at an institution of higher education, or completed four years of military service. DREAM-eligible youth would apply for RPI status through the standard application process and after 5 years, would be eligible to apply for Legal Permanent Resident (LPR) status and then be immediately eligible for citizenship. Other components of the DREAM pathway include:

- No upper-age cap for those who apply under this provision, enabling DREAMers who entered as children to access an expedited path to citizenship regardless of their current age
- Discretion for the Department Homeland Security (DHS) secretary to establish streamlined procedures for individuals who have received Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)
- A hardship exception for those who meet the principal requirements of the DREAM provision but are unable to meet higher education or military requirements
- Exemption from penalties
- Repeal of Section 505 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996, thereby allowing states the right to determine in-state tuition eligibility for undocumented students, without facing a penalty

It is important to note that under S.744 DREAMers will remain ineligible for all forms of federal financial aid, including student loans and federal work study. However, the DREAM provisions in S.744 are significantly more inclusive than previous versions of the bill and could provide qualified individuals with an expedited pathway to citizenship and improved access to higher education.



REGISTERED PROVISIONAL IMMIGRANT STATUS FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH

S.744 also provides derivative eligibility for RPI status for a dependent child if the child was present in the U.S. as of December 30, 2012 and their parent applies for RPI status. Children remain eligible if their parent is denied RPI status or if the parent-child relationship is terminated. Children under age 16 are exempt from paying fees or penalties to apply for RPI status, while youth under age 21 are also exempt from penalties for RPI and LPR status.

It is important to note that children in elementary school who are too young to meet the high school or GED requirement under the DREAM Act must follow the standard RPI path to LPR status and citizenship. As a result, young children could face a waiting period of up to 13 years before they become citizens.

WAIVERS FOR CERTAIN FAMILY MEMBERS AND YOUTH OUTSIDE THE U.S.

Individuals who departed the U.S. as a result of being subject to an order of exclusion, deportation, removal or voluntary departure,

~Continued on next page

Immigration Reform and the Implications for Children (Continued)

and remain outside the U.S. or reentered unlawfully after December 31, 2011 would not be eligible to apply for RPI status. However, the DHS Secretary will have discretion to waive this ineligibility for the following individuals:

- A spouse, parent, or child of a U.S. citizen or LPR
- Certain DREAM-eligible youth who entered under the age of 16 and have obtained a high school diploma or GED
- Individuals who entered the country prior to the age of 16, are at least 16 at the time of applying for RPI, and were physically present for a total of three years during the six-month period prior to the date of the enactment of the legislation

This limited waiver provides an important opportunity for certain removed parents and DREAM-eligible youth to return to the U.S. to reunite with family members.

POLICIES REGARDING DETAINED AND REMOVED PARENTS INVOLVED WITH THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM

Several important modifications impacting upon state child welfare plans are proposed in the bill to promote the reunification of detained or removed parents with their children in the child welfare system. Specifically, the bill provides states with the authority to consider a parent's detention or removal as a compelling reason to delay filing for termination of parental rights (TPR) and requires state child welfare

agencies to meet certain conditions before filing for TPR in such cases. The bill also includes provisions to ensure that state child welfare agencies place children with relatives whenever appropriate, regardless of immigration status and that parents are provided assistance in making arrangements for their child prior to a parent's removal.

CHANGES TO THE FAMILY IMMIGRATION SYSTEM

The bill includes several modifications to the family immigration system which impact family reunification, including the elimination of certain categories while the lifting of visa caps on others. Specifically, S.744 does the following:

- Eliminates family-based visas for siblings of U.S. citizens
- Creates an age cap of 31 for married sons and daughters of U.S. citizens
- Permits parents of U.S. citizens who immigrate to bring their minor children with them
- Creates a "merit-based system" with two tracks. The first track awards points for factors such as education, length of employment, type of employment, family members in the U.S., and length of residence in the U.S. The second track creates a process for eliminating the backlog of family-based and employment-based visas within eight years, and it

provides visas for immigrants who have been waiting for a visa for at least 5 years as well as those who have been lawfully present for at least 10 years.

CHANGES IN IMMIGRATION LAW SPECIFIC TO CHILDREN

The bill includes important changes to immigration law to take into account the potential impact on children in decisions regarding removal, deportation, or exclusion as well as waivers of inadmissibility. Specifically the bill:

- Provides immigration judges discretion to decline to order an immigrant removed, deported, or excluded and to terminate proceedings if it is determined that such action would result in hardship to the immigrant's U.S. citizen or LPR parent, spouse, or child

Contact: Wendy Cervantes, Vice President, Immigration & Child Rights Policy

wendyc@firstfocus.net | 202.657.0670 | www.firstfocus.net

Creating Connections for Kinship Caregivers

Are you raising a relative's child?

Kinship care has been a nationally-growing phenomenon for the last decade. Census reports indicate that more than 198,000 children under age 18 live in homes where the householders are grandparents or other relatives accounting for 12.2% of all children under 18 in the state (U.S. Census, 2010). Research indicates that children in kinship care experience greater stability than those in foster care. However, many kinship families do not receive the support and resources that would help them create more stability for their household.

Arizona's Children Association (AzCA) kinship programs have worked for years to empower the community to embrace and support these very special families and their potential to provide a positive alternative to traditional foster care. We announced our newest kinship program, Arizona Kinship Support Services, nearly a year ago when we received a federal grant **"Family Connections Child Welfare/TANF Collaboration in Kinship Navigation Programs"** funded through the Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Children's Bureau, which allows us to continue our work with kinship families and further grow the program.

The Arizona Kinship Support Services program provides support groups, legal services, parenting skills education, foster care licensing and adoption support, as well

as connections to food, housing and clothing resources, and much more. The program also provides assistance to caregivers involved with CPS, DES and other government agencies.

Our kinship staff has been hard at work behind the scenes and we are now proud to announce a brand new website designed just for the needs of kinship caregivers!

ArizonaKinship.org is designed to help kinship caregivers navigate the various systems that they will encounter when raising their relative's children and connect them to the resources they need.

"We recognized that in this digital age there was not a local online resource that responded to all of the needs of kinship families," said Candy Espino, director of operations, child welfare. "In addition to all of our kinship work throughout the last decade, we are now able to take a well-rounded approach by integrating an online resource."

Each kinship family is unique. ArizonaKinship.org allows kinship caregivers to independently research their local resources or connect directly with an AzCA support staff who will assist them in determining the type of kinship family they are, what their needs are, and the best



available resources.

Through the website, our caregivers are also given the opportunity to connect with a support group or meet others in the same situation for emotional support. In addition, the website also invites people to share their personal stories and read about those with parallel stories.

"Our vision for the website is that it will link caregivers to real community supports to meet their current needs," said Espino. "We relied on the expertise of our kinship caregivers to assist in the creation of this website to ensure that it met their needs and was as user-friendly as possible."

Visit the Arizona Kinship Support Services at www.arizonakinship.org. Support services can also be obtained by calling the Caregiver Hotline at 1.888.737.7494.

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ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF
ECONOMIC SECURITY

Your Partner For A Stronger Arizona

Division of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) A Guide to Child Protective Services (CPS) Chapter 2: Section 9.4

Planning For Services and Supports to Achieve Permanency

Policy:

The family centered case plan shall specify services or interventions necessary to achieve the permanency goal.

When the permanency goal is remain with family or family reunification, the case plan shall specify:

- behavioral changes required to address the safety and risk factors that caused the child to be removed from the home and/or prevent the child from living safely at home without the department's involvement; and
- the responsibilities of the department, other professionals, the parent, the child, and/or other family members as

applicable, in achieving the outcomes necessary to enable the family to care for the child without the department's involvement.

When a permanency goal of adoption, guardianship, independent living or as another planned permanent living arrangement, the Out-of-Home Care Plan or Independent Living Plan component of the case plan shall:

- identify services and supports aimed at achieving the specified permanency goal as quickly as possible, and specify the responsibilities of the department, other professionals, the parent, the child, and/or other family members as applicable, in reaching the outcomes necessary to achieve the permanency goal.

For a child under the age of three at the time of the child's initial removal pursuant to court order, the department shall inform the parent(s) that:

- a permanency hearing will be held within six months of the child's removal from the home, and substantially neglecting or willfully refusing to participate in

reunification services may result in a court order to terminate parental rights at the permanency hearing.

Throughout the case, the CPS Specialist shall monitor progress towards achieving the permanency goal, any barriers towards achievement, and/or any significant changes in risk to the child or the family's situation.

If the permanency goal is remain with family or family reunification, CPS Specialists shall have face-to-face contact with all parents at least once a month, including any alleged parents, parents residing outside of the child's home, and incarcerated parents.

Exceptions to monthly face-to-face contact with parents may be made on a case-by-case basis based on the unique circumstances of the family.

If the child's permanency goal is not family reunification or remain with family, CPS Specialists shall consult with their supervisor to develop a plan for contact with parents whose parental rights have not been terminated and whose whereabouts are known.



Training Opportunity

Now Playing for September

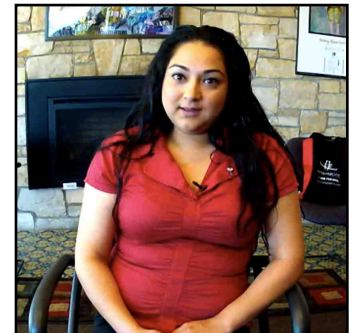
Training Hours can be achieved in many ways. There are training sessions, seminars, webinars, conferences, reading (books, articles, this newsletter, etc) as well as taking online courses and watching TV specials.

Michelle Became A Foster Kid At 9

A David Hoffman interview with a young adult who gives her view in a very articulate manner why she wanted to be adopted as a teenager. She gives high praise to her CASA volunteer for being such a positive constant presence in her life.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i82TrslQYpY>

20:56



Parenting Adopted Teens and Tweens

Host Dawn Davenport explores the teen years and what parents can do to help.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4oNw1-cdH8k>

9:38



Reading and writing a summary of these videos is worth 1/2 hour of training. Send the summary to Joan for credit.



cccc

Cochise County Council for CASA

is a nonprofit organization that raises funds to the unmet needs of abused neglected and abandoned children in the CASA of Cochise County Program. The primary focus is to ensure that educational progress of CASA children through tutoring and scholarships. In addition the council provides clothing, toys and personal items.

If your CASA child/youth has an unmet need, consider the Cochise County Council for CASA to help!!

Call your CASA Coordinator at 432-7521 **OR**

Send an email to jhansen@courts.az.gov



Drug Court Parents Meeting

First Monday of each month

5:45pm

JPO Conference Room

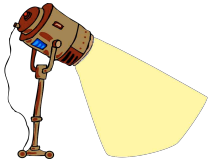
CASA Volunteers are encouraged to help with this activity. This requires an orientation with Drug Court Coordinator Kris Sullivan and the signing of a confidentiality agreement.

Spontaneous attendance at a meeting is not permitted.

If you are interested, please contact Joan and she can put you in touch with Kris Sullivan.

Also contact Ginger Shreve
for information.

520-220-7555



Shining the Spotlight on Resources

Arizona Families First (Part of Catholic Community Services)

Summary of the presentation on Arizona Families First at CCS given to the Best for Babies Meeting on August 15th.

The speaker was Lisa Silva, who is the Program Director for the Arizona Families First program (AFF) of Catholic Community Services (CCS). SEABHS is the main contract holder of the AFF program, but they have sub-contracted part of the program (case management) to CCS. AFF's slogan is "Families in Recovery and Succeeding Together." The AFF program run by CCS is a substance abuse treatment program for adults, many of whom are parents of kids in the dependency process. This program is totally volunteer, so even if someone is referred to AFF, they cannot be forced to continue the program.

AFF coordinates treatment for those struggling with substance abuse and provides case management services for outpatient treatment, intensive services, and residential services. By providing case management, AFF provides the means for their clients to attend/receive services, they do not actually provide the treatment. AFF also provides urinalysis services, substance abuse education, family

service plans, and aftercare services.

AFF tries to focus on positive accomplishments while helping clients deal with their substance abuse problems. AFF employees try to act as a cheerleader for these clients and help keep them motivated to continue trying to address their substance abuse issues. If a client is involved in the program, AFF helps with transportation costs to and from treatment; there is a \$600 stipend for transportation costs per referral to AFF, as long as the client remains active in the program. Aside from providing transportation, AFF is also willing to help with other little things that help improve a client's outlook and keep them striving to better themselves.

Mike Lopez is the Case Manager for AFF at CCS. Mike tries to encourage his clients to participate in all services while also trying to strengthen relationships between the clients and other members of their team (i.e. CPS Case Managers, therapists, etc.). Mike builds rapport with his clients and tries to understand what causes the setbacks that occur, while trying to find away to avoid potential setbacks in the future.

For someone to become involved in the AFF program, they must get a referral to the program. The CPS Case Manager involved (assuming there are children involved in the dependency) would make the referral for these services to SEABHS. SEABHS then provides AFF at CCS referrals for those clients that are not in Title XIX status (SEABHS is required to handle those clients personally). Once AFF receives a referral, they must contact the client within 24 hours of receiving the referral. Even if a referral is received on Friday afternoon, an AFF staff member still must contact the client within 24 hours. This quick turnaround can help get the parent back on track within the mandated timeline of a dependency case.

AFF staff members are not able to determine when a client is no longer eligible for services from AFF. The cases get closed out when CPS or SEABHS deem that services are no longer required (usually do to lack of participation) and therefore they will no longer pay for the services. So, unless CPS or SEABHS determines that the client should no longer receive services, AFF will be available to them.

Douglas Care Fair

Photos from **Jennifer Rein**, Cochise County CASA Volunteer
This will probably be the last event of the season.



Our Cochise County CASA Volunteers



From Bud & Jan Dragoo

One of the high points of our young man's placement has been a trip with the foster family to New York and Washington D.C.

Here is a picture of the foster mother, foster sister and our foster child outside the White House.



From LuRue Troyer

Staying with my granddaughter in Fairbanks for a couple of weeks this summer included working up a couple of dance routines for an evening of entertainment for her family after their return.

Nothing like keeping up with a 17-yr-old to stay active!

